(b) If so, what is the nature of this project and how much energy will it generate;

(c) the reasons for which Thangassery (Kerala) Wave Energy Generation System could not yet take off inspite of heavy expenditure on it while a system with foreign collaboration is ready;

(d) what is the contribution of Dr. Naunihal Singh, Member of Parliament in bringing the wave energy generating system in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) whether he has offered his advice to the Department and whether the Department has considered his advice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No wave power generating station has been set up off the sea coast of Tamil Nadu. However, in January 1994, a Memorandum of Understanding, between M/s. Sea Solar Power Inc., USA and Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board was signed for formation of a new company in India for the establishment and operation of a 100 MW Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) project off Kulasekarapattinam (Tamil Nadu).

(b) The Memorandum envisages erection and commissioning of 100 MW floating type Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion sea solar power plant, if the site proves technically satisfactory after oceanographic investigation.

(c) The Wave Energy and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion sysems operate on different principles. The commercial viability of both he technologies are yet to be demonstrated. An important step has already been taken for he development of technology for harnessing energy from waves by establishing an experimental wave power plant at Vizhinjam, Kerala, This technology is being refined for utilising the same or the proposed breakwater integrated wave energy plant at Thangassery. However, no expenditure has yet been incrred on the Thangassery Wave energy project.

(d) Dr. Naunihal Sigh, MP is not associated with wave energy generating system and no advice has been received from him.

(e) However, Dr. Naunihal Singh, who is a member of Parliamentary Consultative Committee for Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources took iniiative to introduce M/s Sea Solar Power, an American Company for taking up the project related to Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) in India. He was pursuing the proposal of setting up of 100 MW OTEC plant with Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu.

Stranding of Dubai Bound Passengers of Al

*135. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 140 passengers including men, women and children bound for Dubai by the Air India flight 735 of January 16, 1994 were stranded in Delhi for four days as the planes were grounded;

(b) whether Government's atttention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times of the 19th January, 1994 narrating the unhelpful and callous attitude of the airlines authorities and the hardships faced by the passengers; and

(c) if so, what are the, details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to fog at Delhi airport and engineering delays, the aircraft which was due to operate the flight to Dubai on 16th January, 1994 could not do so. Passengers on this flight were at Delhi for about 70 hours. Facilities including hotel accommodation were provided to them. These passengers were flown to their destination by Air India/Emirates flight on 18th and 19th January, 1994.

देश में प्राईवेट एयर कम्पनीयाँ

*136. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय देश में चल रही प्राइवेट एयर कम्पनियों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं ;